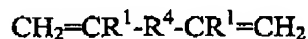


•••REMARKS/ARGUMENTS•••

The Office Action of February 21, 2006 has been thoroughly studied. Accordingly, the changes presented herein for the application, considered together with the following remarks, are believed to be sufficient to place the application into condition for allowance.

By the present amendment, the preamble of each of the pending claims has been changed to recite a "metal- or resin-laminated gasket." This language is believed to address and overcome the Examiner's concerns that the previous language of a "metal- or resin-integrated gasket" was unclear to those skilled in the art.

Also by the present amendment independent claim 1 has been changed to recite that component (A) is an acrylic polymer having at least one alkenyl group capable of undergoing hydrosilylation reaction obtained by copolymerization of an acrylic acid ester monomer and a compound as a second monomer represented by the general formula:



wherein R^1 is a hydrogen atom or a methyl group and R^4 is an organic group of C_1 - C_{20} , which may have at least one ether bond.

Support for this limitation can be found on pages 5 and 6 of applicants' original specification.

Also by the present amendment new claims 14 and 15 have been added.

New claim 14 depends from claim 1 and recites that the second monomer is one of 1,5-hexadiene, 1,7-octadiene and 1,9-decadiene.

New claim 15 depends from claim 1 and recites that the second monomer reacts at a final

stage of the polymerization react or after completion of the reaction of the acrylic acid ester monomer in the synthesis of acrylic polymers by living radical polymerization.

Support for new claims 14 and 15 can be found on page 6 of applicants' original specification.

Entry of the changes to the claims is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-15 are pending in this application.

On page 2 of the Office Action the Examiner rejected claims 1-13 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Under this rejection the Examiner took the position that the phrase "metal- or resin-integrated" was unclear to one of ordinary skill in the art.

In response to this rejection, the preamble of each of the pending claims has been changed to recite a "metal- or resin-laminated gasket."

Claims 1-3, 5, 6, 8 and 9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,463,704 to Farnam in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,986,014 to Kusakabe et al.

Claims 4 and 10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Farnam in view of Kusakabe et al. and U.S. Patent No. 6,444,740 to DeCato et al.

Claims 7 and 11-13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Farnam in view of Kusakabe et al., DeCato et al. and U.S. Patent No. 5,684,110 to Kawamura.

For the reasons set forth below, it is submitted that all of the pending claims are allowable over the prior art relied upon by the Examiner and therefore, each of the outstanding rejections of the claims should properly be withdrawn.

Favorable reconsideration is earnestly solicited.

The Examiner has relied upon Farnam as teaching:

...a gasket (Abstract, line 2), which comprises a cured product layer (Abstract, line 17 "cure the coating") and a metal plate or resin plate (col. 3, line 26 "polymeric material", a resin), the cured product layer being provided on at least one surface of the resin plate (col. 8, lines 46-48 "applied to top and bottom surfaces" and Abstract, lines 4-5 and 17).

The Examiner concedes that "Farnam (704) fails to teach of a composition comprising an acrylic polymer having at least one alkenyl group capable of undergoing hydrosilylation reaction, a hydrosilyl group-containing compound and a hydrosilylation catalyst as essential components."

Accordingly, the Examiner has relied upon Kusakabe et al as teaching:

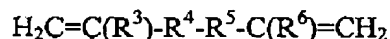
...a composition comprising an acrylic polymer having at least one alkenyl group capable of undergoing hydrosilylation reaction (col. 11, lines 43-45), a hydrosilyl group-containing compound (col. 11, line 46) and a hydrosilylation catalyst as essential components (col. 14, lines 49-50) for the purpose of providing good depth curability without foaming (col. 14, lines 47-50).

In combining the teachings of Farnam and Kusakabe et al. the Examiner takes the position that:

... it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time applicants' invention was made to substitute the composition of Farnam (704) with the well known acrylic polymer as described above in order to provide gaskets with good depth curability without foaming as taught by Kusakabe ('014).

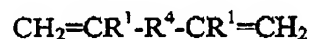
At column 5, line 59 through column 6, line 2 Kusakabe et al. teach:

A representative example of the compounds having a polymerizable alkenyl group and at least one other alkenyl group which is suitable for use in the practice of this invention is, but is not limited to, the compound of formula (2):



(wherein each of R^3 and R^6 is independently hydrogen or methyl; R^4 is $-\text{C}(\text{O})\text{O}-$, or o-, m-, p-phenylene; R^5 is a direct connection or a C_{1-20} divalent organic group which may contain at least one ether oxygen.)

The Examiner will note that in applicants' claimed invention, the second monomer is a compound having at least two alkenyl groups of lower polymerizability, that is, a compound represented by the general formula:



wherein R^1 is a hydrogen atom or a methyl group and R^4 is an organic group of C_1 - C_{20} , which may have at least one ether bond.

The compound having two alkenyl groups according to the present invention does not have a $-\text{COO}-$ or phenylene group which is represented by R^4 in the formula of Kusakabe et al. above.

It therefore follows that the prior art (i.e. Kusakabe et al.) does not disclose or suggest applicants' claimed compound that has at least two alkenyl groups that is as a copolymerization comonomer of component (A) in the present invention.

Moreover, it is noted that applicants' invention provides a metal- or resin-laminated gasket that is exceptional in that no peeling occurs after heating the gasket at extended high temperature conditions such as 170°C for 70 hours.

Neither Farnam nor Kusakabe et al. teach gaskets or gasket materials that demonstrate comparable characteristics. Accordingly, the resulting gaskets of the present invention are not taught, suggested or obvious over the prior art of record, and no combination of the prior art even suggests the properties and characteristics of applicants' gaskets.

It is further noted that since no organic solvent needs to be used in the present invention when the cured product layer is produced, the invention provides an environmentally friendly process.

Note Kusakabe et al. teaches the use of organic solvents.

The Examiner has relied upon DeCato et al. as teaching that a cured product layer's surface hardness can vary depending on the additives.

The Examiner has relied upon Kawamura as teaching resins that have a softening point of 100 °C or more for the purpose of providing a gasket to undergo a very slow cure for having acceptable storage stability.

The Examiner's further reliance upon DeCato et al and Kawamura do not address or overcome the distinctions between the present invention and Kusakabe et al. noted above or that the fact that the combination of Farnam and Kusakabe et al. do not render the pending independent claims obvious.

Based upon the above distinctions between the prior art relied upon by the Examiner and the present invention, and the overall teachings of prior art, properly considered as a whole, it is respectfully submitted that the Examiner cannot rely upon the prior art as required under 35 U.S.C. §103 to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness of applicants' claimed invention

It is, therefore, submitted that any reliance upon prior art would be improper inasmuch as the prior art does not remotely anticipate, teach, suggest or render obvious the present invention.

It is submitted that the claims, as now amended, and the discussion contained herein clearly show that the claimed invention is novel and neither anticipated nor obvious over the teachings of the prior art and the outstanding rejections of the claims should hence be withdrawn.

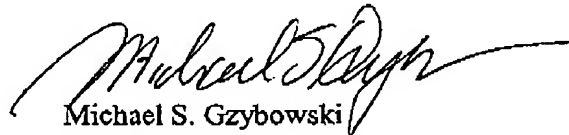
Therefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections of the claims and an early allowance of the claims is believed to be in order.

It is believed that the above represents a complete response to the Official Action and reconsideration is requested.

If upon consideration of the above, the Examiner should feel that there remain outstanding issues in the present application that could be resolved, the Examiner is invited to contact applicant's patent counsel at the telephone number given below to discuss such issues.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR §1.136 is hereby made. Please charge the fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account No. 12-2136 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,



Michael S. Gzybowski
Reg. No. 32,816

BUTZEL LONG
350 South Main Street
Suite 300
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104
(734) 995-3110

150308.1